

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BANGKO 05374 111032Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCS-03 DPW-01 DHA-02 IO-13
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SCA-01 /087 W
-----111158Z 122672 /23-11

P R 110933Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0009
INFO AMCONGEN HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
CINCPAC HONOLULU
JCRC BARBERS PR HA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 5374

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CASC, PFOR, VN
SUBJECT: AMERICANS IN VIET-NAM

1. SINCE SHORTLY AFTER FALL OF SAIGON, WE HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING CASE OF FORMER USG EMPLOYEE TUCKER GOUGELMANN, WHO REMAINED BEHIND IN SAIGON. GOUGELMANN WAS TAKEN FROM ASTOR HOTEL AND IMPRISONED IN EARLY JULY, 1975, AND HAS NOT BEEN HEARD FROM SINCE. ONE AMERICAN WHO DEPARTED SAIGON AUG 1, 1976, UNDERSTOOD THAT GOUGELMANN HAD BEEN TAKEN TO THE NORTH PERHAPS TWO MONTH EARLIER. ICRC OFFICIAL LEARNED IN JULY, 1976, THAT AN AMERICAN, BELIEVED TO BE GOUGELMANN, DIED AT CHI HOA PRISON THAT MONTH. SINCE THEN, WE HAVE HEARD THAT THE AMERICAN IN QUESTION WAS PROBABLY YOUNG RATHER THAN OF GOUGELMANN'S MORE ADVANCED AGE.

2. A BANGKOK BUSINESSMAN (APPARENTLY SINO-THAI), WHO CLAIMS TO HAVE BEEN FRIEND OF GOUGELMANN FOR PAST THIRTY YEARS, REPORTED MAR 11 THAT HE HAS RECEIVED LETTERS FROM TIME TO TIME FROM GOUGELMANN'S VIETNAMESE
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FAMILY IN SAIGON. LAST LETTER WAS WRITTEN 6-7 WEEKS AGO AND JUST RECEIVED BANGKOK. FAMILY SAID IT BADLY NEEDED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, AND BUSINESS MAN IS ENDEAVORING TO SEND MONEY ITS WAY.

3. ALTHOUGH WRITTEN IN VERY OBLIQUE TERMS, FAMILY'S LETTERS HAVE INDICATED OVER PERIOD OF TIME THAT

GOUGELMANN WAS HELD IN SAIGON FOR ONLY SEVERAL MONTHS BEFORE BEING TAKEN TO THE NORTH. IT IS UNCERTAIN FROM CORRESPONDENCE WHEN HE WAS RETURNED TO SAIGON. SOURCE IS UNABLE TO DETERMINE WHETHER GOUGELMANN IS NOW (A) UNDER HOUSE ARREST, LIVING WITH HIS FAMILY, OR (B) LIVING AGAIN AT ASTOR HOTEL. LAST WORD GOUGELMANN'S FAMILY COMMUNICATED WAS THAT HE IS ALIVE AND WELL.

4. SOURCE SEEMED SINCERE IN CONVEYING INFORMATION TO EMBASSY. IT IS DIFFICULT TO SAY HOW RELIABLE IT IS, BUT IT GIVES REASON FOR HOPE THAT GOUGELMANN REMAINS ALIVE.

WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WELFARE & WHEREABOUTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BANGKO05374
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770084-0586
Format: TEL
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770371/aaaackah.tel
Line Count: 75
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: afe13dba-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3143761
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMERICANS IN VIET-NAM
TAGS: CASC, PFOR, VN, (GOUGELMANN, TUCKER)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/afe13dba-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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